



Canada



Significant Achievements 2023

- Headed by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, the Cooperative Program in Research and Technology for the Northern Region (PROCINORTE) approved grants for seven collaborative research projects in Mexico (2), Brazil (1), Saint Kitts & Nevis (1), Saint Lucia (1), Trinidad and Tobago (1) and Ecuador (1). The research topics covered novel diagnostic tool development, risk assessment and management, traceability methods, African Swine Fever (ASF) preparedness training, and molecular epidemiological strategies. In the fight against ASF, collaborative research efforts and training of this nature are crucial to building capacity and promoting knowledge sharing among scientists in the Americas. Other results include:
 - PROCINORTE's NORGEN Task Force and the Secretariat housed within IICA Canada, provided GRIN-Global training, through six online workshops on genebank management, the creation of a platform to facilitate passport handling, characterization, evaluation, and data management, as well as data access by global genebank clients; and
 - PROCINORTE's celebrated its 25th anniversary at an event in Mexico City, with senior agricultural dignitaries and scientific leadership from North America, Central America, and the Caribbean, followed by three workshops on plant health, ASF and avian influenza, attended by over 500 participants, online and in-person.
- IICA submitted a formal project proposal to Global Affairs Canada (GAC) on leveraging the capabilities of satellite data and remote sensing technologies to empower ranchers in Guatemala and Mexico—especially women—to monitor climate, land use, pasture quality, and resource distribution, thereby facilitating a more precise and targeted approach to sustainable livestock management. Argentina and the Institute's Climate Action and Agricultural Sustainability Program will provide technical support.
- IICA Canada provided technical cooperation services, serving as a food waste and business innovation jury member for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's CAD\$20M food waste reduction challenge; as an advisor to Statistics Canada's Agri-Food Committee and as an agricultural advisor to SICA's diplomatic corps in Canada. The office also lent its expertise in reviewing economic, social and environmental benefits on genomic solution research projects for Genome Canada's CAD\$30M initiative on Climate-Smart Agriculture and Food Systems.
- IICA offered a 6-module virtual course on "Preparing to Export Agri-food Products", in partnership with the Forum for International Trade Training (FITT), based in Ottawa. The course aims to strengthen participants' capacity to export agri-food products and to raise awareness about export readiness, to capitalize on opportunities afforded by trade agreements and regional integration processes.

1. A trilateral network of agricultural research bodies in Canada, Mexico, and the US that promotes research collaboration and knowledge-sharing among scientists across the Americas to (1) protect animal and plant health, (2) support training in genetic resources, as well as (3) promote collaboration around climate change, soils and water science.

- The Institute developed partnerships with:
 - The Quebec Government's *Ministère des Relations Internationales et de la Francophonie*, which provided financial support for a six-month internship in 2024 for a Quebec graduate student to work at headquarters on environmental issues and international relations in the Americas;
 - A second intern from McGill University—a PhD candidate specialized in sustainable livestock—will lend support to PROCINORTE and to the Institute's scientific hemispheric webinars, as well as technical support to IICA's Caribbean Agrotourism Network;
 - A third intern, through the University of Ottawa's internship program, will focus on communications.

- IICA co-hosted several hybrid and virtual regional and hemispheric seminars that featured speakers from across Canada and the Americas, offering insightful perspectives on current development challenges, including:
 - A ministerial workshop on food security in the Americas at Canada's Agriculture and Food Museum in Ottawa, with the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Deputy Director General of IICA in attendance;
 - A workshop funded by IFAD on agritourism in the Caribbean and Central American regions;
 - Three international training workshops focusing on food recalls, inspections, and Canada's Food Safety Information Network, co-hosted by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA);
 - A hybrid workshop celebrating CARICOM's 50th Anniversary, co-hosted by the Caribbean ambassadors in Canada, with a keynote address from Zulfikar Mustapha, the Minister of Agriculture of Guyana; and

- The Institute also took part in multiple Canadian and international conferences, including speaking and moderating opportunities, providing guidance, thought leadership, and development solutions, including:
 - A Master Class on Food Security in the Americas, in French, at the 2nd Cérés workshop organized by the *Chantier d'avenir en sécurité alimentaire* at Université Laval in Quebec City.
 - The Compost Council of Canada's 33rd International Organics Recycling Conference in Montreal;
 - The 2023 Toronto Global Forum sessions on climate change and agricultural technologies, hosted by the International Economic Forum of the Americas;
 - The University of Guelph's workshop on Sustainable Potato Production (serving as moderator);
 - The Global Environmental Facility's 7th General Assembly in Vancouver, to discuss governance and financing solutions for global environmental challenges and forge new partnerships;
 - The biennial North America Europe Agriculture Conference in Prince Edward Island, as a keynote speaker;
 - The 2023 Arrell Food Summit in Toronto, Grow Canada Conference in Calgary, the SIAL Canada Food Innovation Trade Show in Toronto, and the AIC Fall Agriculture Innovation Session in Gatineau, Quebec, serving as a panelist on animal health;
 - Dialogues with agricultural exporters from Mexico and with Paraguay's food safety department – Servicio Nacional de Saneamiento Ambiental (SENASA); and
 - PROCINORTE Dialogues on Science and Technology Systems in the Americas, held in Costa Rica.